



State of Delaware
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation
89 Kings Highway
Dover, Delaware 19901

Council on Greenways & Trails

Friday, February 7, 2014
Meeting Minutes
9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Farmington Room, DelDOT
800 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901

Welcome & Introductions

Diane Wilson, Chairperson, and Sussex County Council Representative, called the meeting to order at 9:30a.m. She invited members and visitors to introduce themselves and identify their group affiliation or agency.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to approve the May 1, 2013 minutes. Jim Ireland said according to Robert's Rules of Order, minutes should not be verbatim, they should be consolidated. Mary Everhart moved to approve the minutes and Charles Emerson seconded. Motion passed.

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to approve the September 18 minutes. Scott Blair moved to approve minutes with corrections and Mary Everhart seconded. Motion passed.

Trail Updates – Staff

Susan Moerschel opened a presentation to keep Council informed of the entire network of trail projects that are in various forms of progress and/or completion. These include projects that are funded with state Bond Bill trail funds, Delaware Land & Water Conservation Trust Fund grant projects, Recreational Trail Program projects and any others at the state and local levels. Slides of projects were shown including:

- New Castle Industrial Trail – from DEEC across Christina River; this includes the Christiana River pedestrian/bike bridge
- White Clay Creek State Park – project still in design, creating a new trail alignment connecting area communities
- Northern Delaware Greenway Trail – Swinging Bridge, decking not accessible; project to be bid for construction this winter
- C&D Canal Trail - Michael Castle Trail; Phase 2 90% design complete; construction begin Fall 2014
- Delaware City Branch Canal Trail – construction underway; completed in fall 2014
- City of Dover – Capital City Trail – Phase 1 complete. Phase 2 construction later this year
- Milford Mispillion Riverwalk Trail – Goat Island Trail segment; grant request pending
- Lewes & Rehoboth region
 - o Cape Henlopen State Park - Gordons Pond Trail; construction complete May 2014
 - o Georgetown Junction & Breakwater Trail – Lewes segment in design including a trailhead
 - o Thompson Island Trail - complete
- Ocean View & Bethany region
 - o Assawoman Canal Trail – Phase 1 design underway; construction expected in fall 2014
 - o Fenwick Kayak Access – completed

- Recreation Trail Modeling - estimates of number of residents living near trail systems was shown for White Clay Creek State Park

John Martin asked for a brief report that lays out the assumption used to build models that estimate number of residents near trail systems. Ms. Kendall Sommers said there is a standard format used and will forward information.

Charlie Emerson made a motion that Council be provided a report on how these projects are prioritized, how the modeling is determined into this and the funding allotment and sources. Jim Ireland seconded. Motion passed.

Diane Wilson said according to the Council's job description, this Council acts in an advisory capacity to DNREC's Parks and Recreation. And the models would help Council understand where best to make trail investments that reach the most residents.

Susan Moerschel said she would prepare Council's request and forward to Council in advance of next meeting.

Volunteer Program – Glen Stubbolo, Chef, Volunteer Programs

Glen Stubbolo's PowerPoint presentation highlighted the Volunteer Program he manages for the Division of Parks & Recreation. He said he works with volunteers from all walks of life with their ages ranging from 8 to 64 years old. The Parks' Volunteers are involved in a broad spectrum of duties. They come in groups or one at a time. There are 14 non-profit 'Friends Groups' that work within this program.

Glen acknowledged John Martin whom he is working with at Fort Delaware State Park. He also acknowledged Jim Ireland from the Trail Spinners, who is involved with mountain bike trails.

To become an Official Delaware State Parks Volunteer, one should apply to the State Parks website: <http://www.destateparks.com/volunteer>. From this website a volunteer can find the type of duty that best fits him or her.

Today, Glen discussed the Trail Volunteer Levels of Involvement with duties as follows:

- Observation & Assistance
- Maintenance
- Construction & Reconstruction.
- Park Watch – provides assistance and guidance on the trails (not enforcement)

Glen runs a positive program that enthusiastically encourages all volunteers to participate in making Delaware State Parks an ideal place to visit. He said one third of work performed at the State Parks is accomplished by Volunteers.

Glen concluded by getting Council to gather around to form a circle, he gave them a rope to pull that had inspirational notes from former volunteers. (He uses this activity as a Team Building exercise). He said this rope, tied to form a circle, denotes connection of the teamwork accomplished by the Volunteer Group at Parks & Recreation.

Trails Grants Application – Bob Ehemann

Bob Ehemann thanked the Grant Review Committee - Jim Ireland, Anthony Aglio, and John Martin, who met to discuss and evaluate the eligibility of the one project for a Delaware Land and Water Conservation Fund trail grant. Bob gave an overview summary of the DTF Program. The program provides for: acquisition of park land; development of park facilities; and park planning. Maintenance projects are not eligible.

To date, the Trust Fund has assisted with 21 different sponsors or eligible agencies; 91 completed projects; over \$6,400,000 of funds contributed towards completed projects.

Bob gave an overview of Milford's Goat Island Nature Trail grant request. The Grant Review Committee recommends that the Council to approve \$260,000 for Phase 1 requested by the City of Milford. Milford has an equal match. Total project cost is: \$520,000.

Diane Wilson commented that she worked in the Milford School District in the late 1980's and is privileged to witness this project grow and become the premier of this development, with the cooperation of this Council, and dedications from Milford residence.

Charlie Emerson asked what was involved in the next phase 2. Bob said Phase 2 would extend the trail.

After discussions, Ms. Diane Wilson asked for a motion to accept and approve City of Milford's DTF Trail Grant application as presented as recommended by the Grant Review Committee. Anthony Aglio made a motion to fund the Milford Project as proposed. John Martin seconded. Motion passed.

Healthy Community Recognition Program – Kendall Sommers

Kendall Summers briefed the Council on Executive Order 19 is about Health Promotion & Disease Prevention (CHPDP), established May 20, 2010. This Order will:

“advise the Governor and Executive Branch state agencies on the development and coordination of strategies policies programs and other actions statewide to promote healthy lifestyles and prevent chronic and lifestyle-related diseases.”

Governor Markell appointed Dr. Sandra Hessing, Chairperson, the Head of the Childhood/Obesity Initiative at A.I. DuPont Hospital in Wilmington; other members are Senator Bethany Hall-Long and Dr. Karyl Rattay, Director, Division of Public Health and others.

Council is divided into 4 workgroups - that focus on different areas of comprehensive health initiatives.

Workgroup 1: Create a more responsive health care system.

Workgroup 2: Implement policies and programs that improve health

Workgroup 3: Create a healthy environment

Workgroup 4: Build capacity for individual health

Work Group 3 Council members, in the past year, prioritized their strategies and determined the following areas that would make the best and immediate impact to improve Delawareans' health:

- Improve access to physical activity in communities
- Implementation of trails and complete streets in targeted communities
- Incentivize communities with “Healthy Communities (HC) Award”
- Educate communities on health benefits
- Improve access to healthy eating in communities
- Combination of improving access to healthy foods in food desert

This was a collaborative Group of inter-agencies, including Delaware Greenways, Uof D, and Nemours. The goal to establish recognition programs where communities apply to be recognized for their positive actions within the community was new to Delaware. The Group looked to what other States used and modeled their program after the Michigan health initiative.

Last year, 2013 was the Pilot Year and seven municipalities applied and were all recognized on some level. The Governor was in attendance and awarded plaques to them. Information can be found on the Councils website at <http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/dpc/chpdp.html>.

Recreational Trail Users Update

- a. Hiking – Gary Kirk, Wilmington Trail Club, provided an update for Wendel Cassel
 - Tri-State Marker Trail – since last meeting, Citizens Advisory Council to White Clay Creek sent a letter to Director Ray Bivens supporting the trail.

- The 1.7 mile trail project is estimated to cost \$20,000; volunteer hours are 1900 and projected; to be completed by April 2015 for 250th Anniversary of the Mason-Dixon Line setting the corner stone of the marker.
- Currently, \$6,348.00 is available to trail construction. Receiving from PA & White Clay Creek Preserve Maintenance Fund \$1,845; Wilmington Trail Club \$2,500; Friends of the White Clay Creek Club State Park \$1,000.
- Grant applications made to date by the Wilmington Trail Club for the Tri-State Marker Trail - applied for \$5,000 grant from the American Hiking Society; and the Friends of the White Clay Creek Preserve applied \$1,700 per year for three years from the White Clay Creek Watershed Association.
- A total of 20 volunteers worked 350 hours on the trail to date.
- Currently, three bridges are completed; work on the fourth bridge has begun.

Diane Wilson asked if the Wilmington Trail Club would like a letter of support from this Council. Gary said Wendel Cassel would be happy to receive one.

Diane Wilson asked for motion that Council on Greenways & Trails write a letter in support of Tri-State Marker Trail that is being constructed by Wilmington Trail Club in both DE and PA. John Martin made a motion and Mary Everhart seconded. Motion passed. [Note: DE State Parks approved the construction of the Tri-State Marker Trail as proposed by the Wilmington Trail Club. The trail was in a draft version of the White Clay Creek State Park Trail Plan. PA had not yet approved the plan for the Tri-State Marker Trail at the time the WCCSP Trail Plan was finalized.]

b. Equestrian – Mary Everhart

- Mary reported that the Delaware Equine Council continues to publish six newsletters a year, available online: www.delawareequinecouncil.com. Council meets 3rd Monday of every month in Harrington, DE except December. Council is planning to move up to Dover – location – not yet finalized.
- Mary has had discussions with David Bartoo, Trail Planner, about concept plans and drawings for Lums Pond south parking lot, to accommodate horse trail parking and horse access.
- C&D Canal trailhead parking lots are encountering break-ins. Is it possible to get security, cameras, and/or lighting. Susan Moerschel will discuss with Parks & Recreation Chief Enforcement Officer, Wayne Kline. She suggested a future presentation by enforcement personnel discuss and share ranger duties.
- Mary said she would write an article about Glen Stubbolo's Volunteer Program to inform more people on volunteerism at DE State Parks.

c. Mountain Biking – Jim Ireland

- Jim said the video "From Where We Stand" filmed its 4th and last episode in Newark. <http://www.pinkbike.com/news/From-Where-We-Stand-Episode-4-Newark-DE.html?trk=rss>
A local student, Sean McCoy participated in the movie. It was a big event for Newark.
- Signage and trail markings ongoing in Fairhill
- There will be a Bike Swap at the Aetna Fire Hall, March 1st, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Announcements

2014 Council meetings: April 30; July 30; December 1

DNREC Budget Hearing – February 12, 2014, 2:15m, JFC Hearing Room

DNREC Bond Bill Hearing – March 6, 2014, 10:00 a.m., JFC Hearing Room

After discussions, Charlie Emerson requested Council write a letter to the Governor, Secretary O'Mara and cc copies to the Joint Finance Committee in favor of asking for continued funding for trails. John Martin made a motion and Mary Everhart seconded. Motion passed.

Heels & Wheels Summit – March 21, 2014, Clayton Hall, UofD, registration is free.

National Trails Day – June 7, 2014

Adjourn

Diane Wilson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Martin made a motion and Jim Ireland seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Meeting Attendance

Appointed Members

Charles Emerson

Mary Everhart

James Ireland

John Martin

Diane Wilson

Agency Members

Anthony Aglio, DelDOT

Scott Blaier, DDA

Guests

Gary Kirk, Wilmington Trail Club

Division of Parks and Recreation

Susan Moerschel

Bob Ehemann

Kendall Sommers

Rose Ryödi